

MRU

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

19 DEC 1964

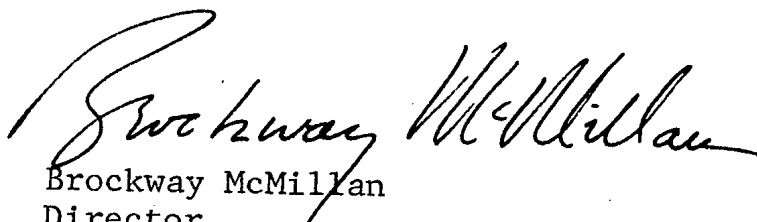
MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: NRO Film Processing

Reference is made to your memorandum of 14 December, subject as above.

As requested, I will be prepared to brief the NRO Executive Committee on this matter within two weeks.

Subsequently, representatives of the NRO Staff will be prepared to discuss this subject with appropriate members of your staff in any degree of detail desired.


Brockway McMillan
Director
National Reconnaissance Office

EXEC. REG. 8. cy
EXECUTIVE REGISTRY
ROOM 7-E-12

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC RECORD
DOD DIR. 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY

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BYE-25051-64

Copy 4 of 7**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**7 - NOV 1964****MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Reconnaissance Office**

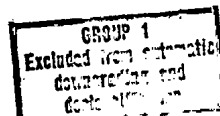
SUBJECT : Movie Film Entitled "Satellite Control"
Produced by the Lockheed Missile and
Space Company

1. The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) has requested a review of the subject film in the course of determining whether or not it should be released to the general public. The portion of the film devoted to capsule recovery operations was identified as constituting the main problem area.

2. Neither the film nor the accompanying narrative contain material not previously published during either the early days of unclassified capsule recovery attempts or following the award of a Unit Citation to the 6593d Test Squadron in 1963. Experience has shown, however, that each time material on capsule recovery is published, it serves as a starting point for discussion and conjecture concerning satellite reconnaissance. Further, the frame of reference surrounding the film is indicative of official Air Force backing if not actual sponsorship. This could well cause confusion among contractor personnel and give rise to a belief that security controls are being relaxed.

3. In order to avoid unnecessary erosion of the overall security of intelligence collection operations, it is requested that you, in accordance with your agreement with the Assistant

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Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) dated 2 January 1964, inform him that public release would conflict with established national policy and that approval for such release must be withheld.

4. Further, in view of the scope of the information included in the film and the fact that at present the great preponderance of military satellite operations are a part of the TOP SECRET Overhead Reconnaissance Program, it is felt that the film should carry a SECRET classification. It is requested that you advise appropriate officials of the Air Force accordingly so that the film may be so classified.

(Signed) Marshall S. Carter

**Marshall S. Carter
Lieutenant General, USA
Acting Director**

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6 NOV 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : Deputy Director for Support /S/ Lt. Col. White
SUBJECT : NRO Security -
Release of Information

6 NOV 1964

1. This memorandum suggests action on the part of the DDCI; this action is contained in paragraph 8.

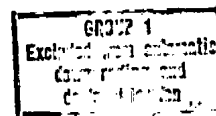
2. The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) has sent to this Agency a film entitled "Satellite Control" which was produced by Lockheed Missile and Space Company for the Air Force. Permission was requested to remove the "For Official Use Only" controls and to release the film to the public.

3. The memorandum accompanying the film states that the Department of State, the Air Staff and the ODDR&E have reviewed the film and have no objection to its release in its present form as amended. The memorandum also states that the DOD and DIA consider the main problem with the film to be the portion devoted to the recovery operations of the capsule. Reference was made on this point to DOD Directive 5200.13 dated 23 March 1963, Subject: "Security Policy for Military Space Programs". This Directive places certain security restrictions on military satellite recovery operations as well as satellite launchings.

4. Neither the film nor the accompanying script contain material not previously published either during the early days of unclassified recovery attempts or following the award of a Unit Citation to the 6593d Test Squadron last year. The Air Force press release concerning this award was the cause for your memorandum to the DNRO requesting that all future releases concerning intelligence gathering be cleared in advance with the Director of Central Intelligence.

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5. It might well be argued that the film does not contain classified information within the spirit of the DOD Directive since it does not identify past, present or future planning of launches of space vehicles or specific recoveries thereof. Also, no mention is made of photographic or overhead reconnaissance. Experience has shown, however, that each time material on capsule recovery is placed before the public it is used as a starting point for further discussion and conjecture concerning satellite reconnaissance photography.

6. It is the opinion of this Office that the public release of information relating to satellite programs tends to arouse speculation concerning our space efforts and the type of payloads being orbited. The press has such a wealth of information regarding past satellite reconnaissance activities, especially those relating to the SAMOS System, that any release to the public tends to gather around it added data concerning satellite intelligence activity. Releases in general always tend to erode the security of the space mission by causing the contractors and contractor personnel to believe that the security bars are being lifted -- particularly in a case such as this where the information is purveyed within a frame of reference strongly indicative of official Air Force backing if not actual sponsorship.

7. Apart from the question as to whether or not the film should be released to the public media, there is serious concern about the adequacy of the "Official Use Only" classification presently in effect. DCID No. 11/2, paragraph 4 states:

" ' FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY. ' Unclassified information bearing this stamp may be used for official purposes by U. S. departments and agencies. It may be used for official purposes by foreign governments which have been authorized to receive it by the originating agency. This information may be disclosed to non-governmental persons and organizations only with permission of the originating agency. "

BYE-25050-64

The film pulls together a complete story of a satellite launching, control, and recovery as well as all of the locations of the tracking stations. Although each specific portion of the film may not warrant a defense classification, it is felt that the aggregate picture presented warrants a **SECRET** classification.

8. It is recommended that you sign the attached memorandum to the Director, National Reconnaissance Office. A copy of the agreement referenced therein is attached for your information.

SIGNED
Howard J. Osborn
Director of Security

Attachment:

Memo for Signature (BYE-25051-64)
Agreement (BYE-22362-64)

CONCURRENCES:

SIGNED

Deputy Director for Science and Technology

6 NOV 1964

Date

SIGNED

Assistant to the Director for Public Affairs

6 NOV 1964

Date

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